

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 04162 110105Z

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ACTION XMB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3747

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - R E F A D D E D R E F I

PASS COMMERCE AND EXIMBANK

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BPRO VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS NEW RADIO LICENSES.

MAY AFFECT RECENT FCIA INSURANCE APPLICATIONS

REF: A. GRAHAM/KAISER TELECON

B. STATE 67823

C. STATE 87884

D. STATE 87910

E. STATE 91177

F. CARACAS 3003

G. CARACAS 4007

H. CARACAS 4010

I. CARACAS 4168

1. FOUR REFERENCED STATE CABLES REQUESTED CLEARANCE FOR FCIA INSURANCE ON SALE OF RADIO BROADCASTING EQUIPMENT. IN OUR INVESTIGATIONS, THERE WAS A PATTERN OF INEXPERIENCE ON THE PART OF THE BUYERS, AND THEY WERE UNKNOWN TO THE BROADCASTING TRADE AND ITS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION. THUS, IN ALL FOUR CASES THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDED CAUTION OR SAID THE BUYER WAS UNKNOWN.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 04162 110105Z

2. FROM SEVERAL SOURCES WE HAVE NOW LEARNED THAT RADIO STATION LICENSES WERE ISSUED TO THE FOUR VENEZUELAN FIRMS OR INDIVIDUALS NAMED IN THE REFERENCED STATE CABLES, AND POSSIBLY OF OTHERS, BY THE FORMER ADMINISTRATION JUST BEFORE IT LEFT OFFICE. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS NOW SUSPENDED ALL THESE LICENSES, PENDING A REVIEW OF WHETHER THEY WERE GRANTED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE LAW AND REGULATIONS.

3. FCIA INSURANCE WAS REQUESTED FOR SALES BY U.S. FIRM CCA ELECTRONICS CORPORATION TO (1) DR JOSE LUIS ZAPATA OF RADIO YACAMBU, IN BARQUESIMETO; (2) PETER KALL RIVERO OF RADIO GUAQUERI IN CUMUNA; AND (3) DR WILFRED FAROH RICHA OF RADIO CHIQUINQUIRA IN QUIBOR. ALSO FOR SALE BY GATES RADIO COMPANY TO FERNANDO FALKENHAGEN OF RADIO SAN FELIPE IN NIRGUA. IN CONVERSATION WITH DR ZAPATA, WHO VISITED EMBASSY TO DISCUSS HIS PENDING PURCHASE OF RADIO BROADCASTING EQUIPMENT, HE PREDICTED THAT HIS RADIO YACAMBU AND PROBABLY RADIO CUMUNA WILL HAVE LICENSES APPROVED BY NEW ADMINISTRATION. HE UNDERSTANDS INFORMALLY THAT RADIO CHIQUINQUIRA IN QUIBOR WILL PROBABLY NOT REPEAT NOT RECEIVE LICENSE. ZAPATA DOES NOT KNOW STATUS OF RADIO SAN FELIPE.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ABOVE FOUR AND ANY ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR FCIA INSURANCE FOR RADIO BROADCASTING EQUIPMENT SALES TO VENEZUELA BE CAREFULLY REVIEWED TO DETERMINE IF BUYER HAS VALID BROADCASTING LICENSE.
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